Sale of wheat in open market by the Food Corporation of India

2438. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India had sold some quantity of wheat in the open market, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantity sold by the Food Corporation of India in the open market together with rates during the above period;

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether there was any proposal under consideration of the Food Corporation of India to sell wheat in the open market; and

(d) if so, the reasons for which the above proposal could not be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Food Corporation of India were authorised to sell wheat in the open market from August, 1985 till end of March, 1986. Open sales have again been resumed from July, 1986.

(b) A statement is attached. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Do not airse.

Statement

The quantity of wheat sold by the Food Corporation of India in the open market during the years 1985-86 *and* 1986-87 (upto 15-11-1986)

(Lakh tonnes)

Year	Period	Rate/Qtl.	Qty. sold
1985-86	Sept. '85 to October, '86	Minimum of Rs. 172	1·89
	13-11-85 to 31-1-86	Rs. 175	8·44
	1-2-86 to 31-3-86	Rs. 193	5·50
1986-87	4-7-86 to 15-7-86	Rs. 222	10·56
	16-7-86 to 15-11-86	Rs. 205	

Streamlining of Public Distribution System

2439. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIEES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have written to the Chief Ministers of various States emphasising the need to streamline the public distribution system so that the weaker sections are ensured availability of all the essential commodities at reasonable prices;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which the guidelines issued by the Union Government have been followed by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies has recently written to Chief Ministers of all the States to develop infrastructural facilities like wider coverage to the network of fair price shops, adequate storage space and streamlining of distribution ssytem, regular and adequate supply of essential commodities to the consumers particularly in the tribal, hilly and far-flung areas. The